

S rial No. 09/421,434

May 23, 2002

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Please replace claims 1 and 16 with the following claims:

sub 1. A method for manufacturing and screening a piezoelectric transformer apparatus including an actuator and a generator, the method comprising the steps of:
beginning manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus;
connecting a load impedance to said generator;
applying a stress signal to said actuator to vibrate the piezoelectric transformer apparatus;
identifying whether the transformer apparatus has a mechanical latent defect;
and
completing the manufacture of the piezoelectric transformer apparatus after the step of identifying whether the transformer apparatus has the mechanical latent defect.

sub 16. The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the step of identifying whether the piezoelectric transformer apparatus has the mechanical latent defect after said steps of connecting a load impedance to said generator and applying a stress signal to said actuator to vibrate the piezoelectric transformer apparatus.